

**The Times-Dispatch**  
Business Office.....115 E. Main Street  
South Richmond.....1000 Hull Street  
Petersburg Bureau.....109 N. Mycanna Street  
Lynchburg Bureau.....115 Eighth Street  
BY MAIL: One Six Three One  
Year, Mo. Mo. Mo.  
Daily with Sunday.....\$4.00 \$2.00 \$1.50  
Daily without Sunday.....4.00 2.00 1.00  
Sunday edition only.....1.00 .50 .25  
Weekly (Wednesday).....1.00 .50 .25

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—  
Daily with Sunday.....15 cents  
Daily without Sunday.....10 cents  
Sunday only.....5 cents  
Entered January 27, 1905, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1912.

**THE FIRST DAY'S SKIRMISH.**

Grin and determined the forces facing each other at Chicago in the brief truce which lies between the first session and the next. They joined battle yesterday, but neither gained any permanent ground, and now both have withdrawn to their camps to await the dawn. The first day's skirmish seemed decisive, but it was indecisive, because it settled nothing that could not be unsettled. The first blood was drawn by Taft, but Roosevelt has not yet let them have the sword, as he said he would if occasion demanded. The battle is not always to the strong in the first day's fighting, for the ground that has been taken by Taft is as nothing to that which he must take to triumph.

The Taft forces prevailed for the time at least when they succeeded in electing Root temporary chairman, but the vote on that question as yet proves nothing. The vote on the choice of the temporary chairman gives no idea of the relative strength of Roosevelt and Taft on other votes. Some who voted for Root may vote later against Taft, and some who voted for Roosevelt may go with Taft in subsequent ballots. The possibilities of compromise and combinations remain great. The Roosevelt attempt to swing La Follette and his Wisconsin votes into line yesterday was an adroit move which shows the kind of tactics which will be employed freely by all factions in this bitterly close fight. It is quite possible that La Follette with his handful of votes may hold the key to the situation and be able to drive the convention into a long deadlock. In such event, his chances would be greatly strengthened.

There is an advantage both actual and psychological in having won the temporary organization, but there are a thousand chances for obstruction and shifting the entire complexion of the situation. The result of the first day does very little to clear away the mystery that envelops the most remarkable political complication in American political history. The master hand of that master politician who moves upon the great chessboard from his room in a Chicago hotel has not lost his cunning, as yesterday showed, and no prophet can forecast the event.

**ITALY IN THE AEGEAN.**

Italy has never counted seriously in any question of the partition of Turkey in Europe. She has had virtually no territorial interest in the matter. There has, in truth, never been any reason why she should hold a single column of ground in the Aegean. It was accepted that she had no other purpose than that of holding them as hostages in order to force Turkey more quickly to terms as respects Tripoli. Even when it was suggested that she might make these islands bases for a demonstration on or invasion of the Turkish mainland in Europe, it was not regarded that she had any idea of conquest.

Undoubtedly these views were justified. Nor is there any ground for questioning Italy's good faith either in her original declaration touching Tripoli and Cyrenaica or her indicated policy in her Aegean operations. As to the latter, especially, had there been, it is hardly possible that the powers would have passed them by with such indifference—indifference which, to say the least, was negative concession that Italy was entirely within her war rights.

But warlike ambition battens upon what it feeds. Now comes information of strong Italian sentiment in favor of making the Aegean "incident" of the conflict an integral part of its aim, and our "incidental" seizure of the Philippines and the subsequent responsibilities laid upon us thereby, are cited as a precedent in support of such a necessary and "warlike" course.

It is pointed out that although the islands would offer no outlet for Italy's surplus population, since they are already crowded, they would none the less afford most valuable markets for Italian exports. More than that, it is argued that their population is Greek, not Turkish, and that in absorbing the incidental possessions Italy would deliver the people from the Moslem yoke, just as we delivered the Filipinos from the Spanish yoke.

It would seem a far way around to show that the cases are on all fours with each other, but, even admitting that they are, Italy probably contemplates such a "development" of her policy, a new and far-reaching factor will have entered into the situation. It cannot be followed that the powers must, as the result, distinctly and

definitely show their hands as between Italy and Turkey, and there may be an alignment to each side that will be more than diplomatic. In short, Italian occupation of Tripoli may become an "incident" of the conflict in lieu of Italian occupation of Turkey's Aegean islands. On the alignment may turn the fate of Turkey in Europe—the issue of territorial integrity, or division, if Italy persists. That she will be sorely tempted to persist is regarded as more than possible, in view of her reported tentative understanding with Russia.

**WHY RUSH THE FRANCHISE?**

An effort is being made by persons interested in the grant of the electric light and power franchise sought by the Richmond and Henric Railway Company to have a special meeting of the Council called on Friday night to consider the passage of the ordinance by that body. The Times-Dispatch would like to know what is the unusual reason that demands such haste in a matter of vital importance to the city. Why should this grave decision be made without the fullest and most careful consideration by the full Council? Who is going to gain by this speed? Will the city of Richmond be in any way benefited by the adoption of this measure within three days from its recommendation by a divided Street Committee? The measure is admitted to involve many and complicated questions as to the future cost of light and power to the entire community. It is the duty of every member of the Council to inform himself upon the real merits of this proposal and to vote for or against it only after the most serious consideration of what good will result to Richmond if it be made a fact.

It seems to us that the applicants for this franchise have been treated with absolute fairness and justice. Every argument they have advanced has been heard. There has been no "speeding up" in refusing the gift. Why should there be any hurry to bestow it? The regular meeting of the Council is to be held on July 1. That is ten days from Friday. Is it possible that so short a time can seriously affect the plans of the applicants? Their work does not have to be begun for three months, nor completed for over a year from the granting of the franchise. To wait until July 1 should involve no sacrifice of their interests. But to rush the matter through without deliberation may mean a grave sacrifice of the city's interests.

This franchise will affect the city for fifteen years. It may have a great influence upon its growth and prosperity. If necessary to make a wise decision, the Council should delay the matter for the time being. And that time should be ample to enable all its members to secure the fullest information and enlightenment. The Times-Dispatch is solely interested in the welfare of Richmond. The Council is solely interested in the welfare of Richmond. Nothing will be sacrificed by proceeding slowly. We ask with all seriousness how will the people of Richmond be benefited by having this question settled at a special meeting of the Council? What is the reason for this haste?

**THE WEST POINT WATERWAY PROJECT.**

West Point will to-day entertain a large delegation of Richmond business men with the view of impressing upon them the desirability of using that city as the seaport of Richmond. The visitors from Richmond will carefully inspect the marine advantages of the thriving city on the York and the possibilities of using it as the seaport entry into Richmond by connecting adequate wharf facilities there with ample railroad facilities to Richmond. The fullest opportunity will be given for a thorough knowledge of the advantages of West Point in case such a plan is adopted, and in the future discussion of the proposition our business men will be able to speak as those who have been on the ground and know the situation from observation. Whatever the outcome may be, serious consideration ought to be given to the question, for our waterway facilities are far from being what they should be, and their development to the point of highest usefulness seems far distant from the present. Los Angeles, although some miles removed from deep water, has successfully adopted the plan proposed by the business men of West Point, and competes advantageously with San Francisco in marine trade, although the latter is directly situated on the sea. If the trip of inspection to-day does nothing else, it will at least establish a stronger tie between the people of West Point and the people of this city, who have much to gain by knowing each other better and taking a larger interest in each other. West Point is thriving with new prosperity and some expansion, and closer and more intimate communication between it and Richmond will result in mutual profit.

**JACKSON AND "THE INSTITUTE."**

In most solemn and impressive salute will be given to-day by the Virginia Military Institute to the memory of "Stonewall" Jackson. There, on the greenward in front of that venerable seat of learning and training which he served so well and so long, is to be unveiled this morning a bronze statue of the great Confederate captain, the right arm of Lee and the hope of a struggling nation. Lafayette is his image, action in every line, and the sword unsheathed. It is the work of Sir Moses Ezekiel, who belonged to that heroic battalion of brave, boyish soldiers who followed their fearless captain across the red lines of death to win immortal fame at the cannon's mouth. The inscription is "The Virginia Military Institute will be heard from to-day," a remark made by Jackson at the battle of Chancellorsville.

lorsville, when he looked over his gray host and singled out a legion of officers who had seen gader service at the Institute. The word heard from the Virginia Military Institute that day, and its fame and that of its professor of philosophy go down in world history secure. It was his sole wish to return to V. M. I. as a member of the faculty when the war closed, and there, above all other places, one can imagine he would prefer to be kept in enduring remembrance. There his bronze image will stand through the years in commemoration of the bond of affection between the institute and the greatest military genius that the American continent has brought forth.

**STOOD THE TEST.**

When Congressmen get out of subjects for bills they usually offer resolutions to appoint a commission to investigate this, that or the other department or bureau. The result has been that there have been countless commissions created, none of which have accomplished much, and all of which have used up an unnecessary outlay of the public money. The Weather Bureau has been investigated, only to be found all right; but Representative Theron Akin, of New York, who is long on resolutions and short on facts, is trying to put the weather man under the microscope again. This case will turn out as the others have, if an investigation is made; many charges have been made in the past against the bureau and its chiefs, but none have been sustained.

It has not been much more than half a year since the Weather Bureau was subjected to thorough congressional scrutiny. It was found by the investigators that that bureau is administered wisely, efficiently and economically for the welfare of the people of the nation. The charges made against it would not hold water. The gross deficiencies and duplications found in other departments were not found in the Weather Bureau. "O. K." was awarded by the investigating committee to it. It has increased its usefulness as time has passed on; it has served the people excellently; it has a clean record, from which there seems no likelihood of departure.

The trouble about these would-be congressional investigators is that they go snooping around trying to stir up trouble, when they cannot see the notes in their own eyes. They graft plenteously on mileage, seeds, stationery, clerk hire, franking and other things; but they will not sweep their own doors clean. He who would achieve economy and efficiency must come into the workshop with clean hands himself. The Weather Bureau is doing a good work of benefit to the country, while foolish Congressmen are seeking whom they may besmirch and drawing from the public cash register about ten times the value of their hire.

**A STATE-WIDE ANTIFLY CAMPAIGN.**

Almost 4,500,000 flies were swatted out of existence in The Times-Dispatch ant-fly contest which ended Monday. One hundred and ten dollars was yesterday awarded to the twenty-seven contesting children, white and colored, who killed the greatest number of the minute pests.

The Times-Dispatch contest was only the first phase of a State-wide campaign against the fly. The people generally must now take up the fight where the youngsters left off and join in a drastic war of fly destruction. The contest which has just closed has focused the attention of the people of Virginia to the fly menace, and the educational effect produced by the contest must not be allowed to be lost through inaction.

Nearly every paper of consequence in the Old Dominion is now enlisted in the crusade against the fly. The dailies are devoting much space to the cause, and the weeklies in increasing number are fighting the fly. No matter how small the paper, it still has space to give to this vigorous battle in behalf of the public health. The State Health Department is supplying the State press generally with valuable and practical information as to the ant-fly campaign, and everywhere the people are being advised to swat the fly.

If the people will join in this fight, a tremendous source of disease will be obliterated. If they will seek out the breeding places of the fly and destroy them, they will render even greater service than they would in killing flies after they have been born, for every fly is soon the ancestor of 10,000 more if it is allowed to live.

**Monday was the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, but everybody was so interested in the battle of Chicago that the older fray was forgotten.**

If the United States Senators were as fast and successful a bunch as the Senators of the diamond, the country would be much better off. Governor Hatley certainly showed that he was from Missouri.

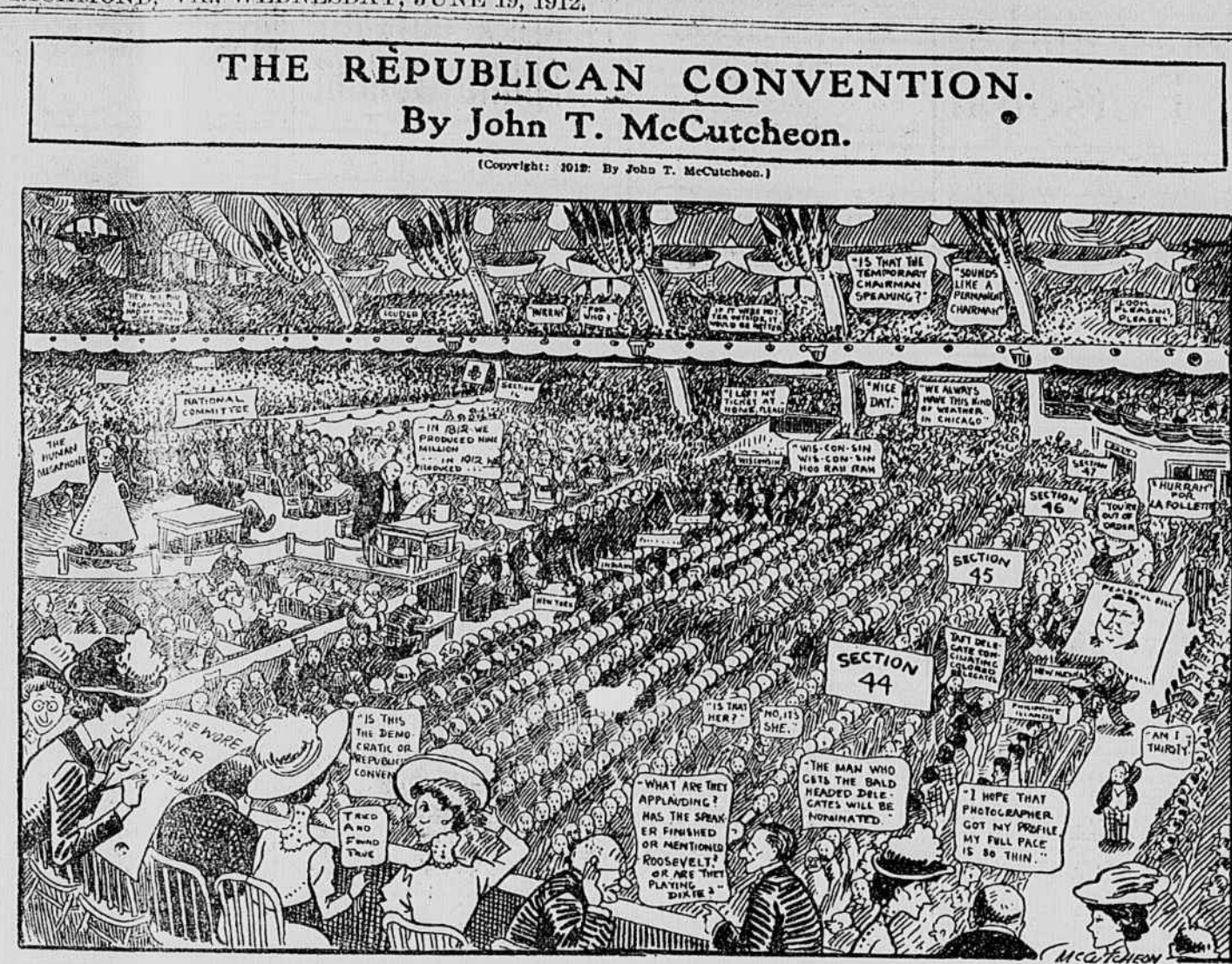
A Wisconsin man "kept company" with a girl fifteen years, fitted her, and has had to pay her \$1,000 for "wanting her time." Another argument for short engagements.

"Colicky cucumbers cause considerable commotion. Carefully consider," is a weekly health hint from the Orange Observer.

Rosewater is a hot water.

Taft scored in the first, but there are eight more innings.

"Love's dripping showers of sunbeams doth each hour of gloom and make the earth with sweetest flowers to bloom," says the Orange Observer, as giddy as ever.



**On the Spur of the Moment**

By Roy K. Moulton

I never saw a peroxide maid  
Whose hair did not look slightly  
frayed.  
—J. H. D.  
I never saw a fine silk hose  
That didn't wear out at the toes.  
—W. L. T.  
I never saw a peck-a-bee  
That was worth looking at, did you?  
—S. T.  
I never saw a Panama  
That didn't sit like a leaden Pa.  
—M. D. T.  
I never saw a plate of hash  
That didn't cause my teeth to gnash.  
—L. D. T.  
I never saw a dollar bill  
That seemed contented to its skill.  
—S. J. D.  
I never saw a baseball game  
But what the battery was lame.  
—W. T.  
I never saw a motorboat  
That didn't butt just like a goat.  
—M. S.

**Voice of the People**

The Man to Win With.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—  
Sir:—I was glad to see the other day that your paper, while admitting that other men named for the Democratic nomination for the presidency were all good men, had come out strongly in urging that Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, be nominated.  
The writer of this article, after weighing carefully the claims for consideration of all the candidates, agrees with you in the conclusion you have arrived at, and he does so for the following reasons:  
1. Because of Wilson's great executive ability, and it is to be borne in mind, first of all, that it is an executive office primarily that we are choosing when we vote for a man for president. Governor Wilson's executive ability has already been tested and proved to be flawless ever since he occupied the gubernatorial chair of New Jersey.  
2. Because of his great record for suggesting and accomplishing good and beneficent legislation. And what he has done in the State of New Jersey it is but fair and reasonable to assume he will do for the whole country, mutatis mutandis.  
The writer is a conservative progressive in his views, and was at first rather inclined to the opinion that Wilson was too radical, but the more he has studied his record and his public speeches, the more he is convinced that he was mistaken in his first estimate of him.  
Wilson is in no true sense of the word a radical. On the contrary, he is a genuine conservative progressive, and it is folly not to admit that that is the tendency of the country and the times. Not to do so would be like denying that two and two make four.  
3. Because it is the large independent vote of this country which, in States like New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio, and Indiana and some of the States farther West, is going to decide this election.  
Governor Wilson appeals more strongly to that class of voters than any of the other candidates named, and this has already been demonstrated by the fact that nearly all the independent newspapers and magazines of the country, with their millions of readers, are advocating his nomination.

To give you an idea of what a great factor this independent vote is, I will cite what came under my own observation when I was a resident of the State of New York from 1903 to 1910. The vote of the Empire State numbers some 2,000,000, and in 1908 Governor Hughes, the Republican candidate for Governor, won by about 75,000 plurality, while in 1910 Governor Fox, the Democratic candidate for Governor, not only overcame that, but won by a plurality of 65,000 and this too in spite of Hearst running and drawing off many Democratic votes.

What a wonderful change this, in the short space of two years!  
There are some 2,000,000 voters in the State of New York, and conservative estimates put the independent vote at 200,000.  
This is the vote we must win if we want to carry the great Empire State and the others. I have named Woodrow Wilson as the man best calculated to appeal to that large and growing class of voters.

Wilson may not be quite as astute a politician, say, as Roosevelt, though he does not lack cleverness in this regard, but as a statesman he towers head and shoulders above any of the others named on either side, and that is what the country needs in this day and generation.

**Abie Martin**



**Stonewall Jackson.**

Arise, thou beautiful vale of peace,  
And bring a wreath of love unto the brow.  
That blenched not when the billowing agonies  
O'whelmed the land, when even the holiest vow  
Trembled upon the lips of sacrifice.  
And paid for victory so vast a price,  
Dim is the finest gold, and gems ablaze  
With the lone lustre of some primal star.  
Pearls of the Orient fade into the haze  
Of lesser things, while seeing from afar  
We mark the glory of a land unrolled  
Faith, and Duty, gems of a richer mould.  
And thus we come to give due reverence  
Unto the handwork of God! Behold  
How genius, glorified with love and tense  
With the immortal purpose, as of old  
Finds in the form the thought which is akin  
Unto the vision of the life within.  
For, lo! the world uncovered stands to-day  
Before a soul mysterious! The old faith  
That we had high forgot becomes the  
Of the mighty when the fierce battle  
Stalks abroad, and fury flingeth afar  
O'er any field the holocaust of war.  
There may the ages see a reverent hush  
Whose faith bequeathed unto the  
Of duty, and this flaming to the role  
Of destiny, his powers thundering  
Athwart the plains, until the gallant foe  
Withdraws in vain the coming overthrow.  
Who saw the mighty onrush of the  
No longer tremble when the tempest  
Its vivid fire, or when the dread surge  
Of bellying thunders, riding on the  
wings  
Of majesty, proclaim the fearsome  
Of awe and terror over all the earth.  
If we but listen, even so far away,  
We hear receding over the wastes of time  
The fiercer echoes of that fiery day.  
The agonies which made our land sublime,  
And lo! a vision—a heroic form  
Armed with the lightning, mantled  
with the storm!  
The vision fades into a holy calm  
Of peace and prosperous days. We  
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No more of war's stark horrors. The  
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Of reconciliation flows, as rivers  
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And there forever will the hero stand  
To guard the memories of our Southern  
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**Confederate.**

By BENJAMIN C. MOOMAW.

Savannah, Va.

**Swat the "Skeeter."**

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—

Dear Sir:—The By-swattening contest is a splendid thing, and while public interest is thus centered on the extermination of so dangerous a pest as the fly, I have been hoping that some voice might be raised against a somewhat similar insect that infests Richmond later on in the summer, to wit, the mosquito.

I do not know to what extent our mosquitoes here constitute a menace to the general health, but they certainly are multitudinous and pestiferous enough in August and September of every year to detract seriously from the pleasure and comfort of living in Richmond during those months; and it does not seem unreasonable to believe that they do affect health by the injection of poison into one's system. Is it not possible to excite sufficient interest for the adoption of some preventive measures against the annual mosquito plague?

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GEORGE D. JOHNSTON.

Richmond.

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Sir:—The many Christian Scientists of the city of Richmond and others who are "interested" in the work throughout Virginia will be interested

**to know that the daily newspaper whose fixed policy is "to injure no man, but to bless all mankind," will be printed during the Chicago convention in the city of Chicago.**

On the face it was a stupendous proposition to do up within two weeks a complete printing plant, even to the gold-lettered sign which marks the temporary quarters of the Monitor, simply to publish a paper for the few days of the convention; but prompt action on the part of the churches secured the necessary funds, a large store on Michigan Avenue just back of the Coliseum was rented, a fully equipped printing plant installed, and everything was in readiness last Monday afternoon, to give Chicagoans and their guests an opportunity to see how a modern, up-to-date newspaper is made.  
The church paper is and always has been strictly nonpartisan, and this policy is rigidly enforced.

**CITIZEN.**

**QUERIES & ANSWERS**

**English Sparrows.**

Please tell me when the English sparrow was brought to this country and where they were liberated. W. L. S.  
The first successful attempt to introduce the English sparrow into America was when about 100 sparrows were imported from England and liberated at St. Narcisse and in Greenwood Cemetery in the spring of 1851. An earlier attempt to introduce the sparrow in 1850 had failed. A committee of the Brooklyn Institute had charge of the matter in 1850-51, and the cost of birds, etc., was about \$200.

**Various.**

How do the salient principles taught by Pastor Russell differ from those of Protestants? Are he and his people the Millennium Dawners? What are two very high buildings? J. S. W.  
Not at all from those of many "Protestants." We have not heard so Washington Monument, Tower of Singer Building.

**Hair Tonic.**

Will you publish the name and address of the firm using a guaranteed hair tonic in The Times-Dispatch long ago?  
MISS N. M.  
I would be an interesting calculation to determine how many times this column would have to be given, were we, we should soon have no room for anything else, and a deal of the advertisement would be shifted to the Query Column free.  
I have stated time and again and, still, let me similar to the above come almost every time. Our correspondent will send stamped and addressed envelope the information asked for will be sent but addresses will not be published here.

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**National State and City Bank**

Richmond, Virginia.  
Solicitors Your Account.  
Capital, \$1,000,000. Surplus, \$800,000.  
Best by Test for forty years.